British citizens were allowed to bring in husbands/fiances.

The European Court of Human Rights held that the U.K. Immigration Rules violated the Human Rights Convention by discriminating between the sexes. The Rules were changed on 26-8-1985 to bring the provisions for the admission of husbands and wives for settlement into line with the European Court Verdict.

The amended rules will allow women legally setted in the U.K., irrespective of their citzenship, to bring in their husbands. However, before they are given entry clearance, such spouses are required to satisfy some additional conditions. The requirements under the old rules, including the requirement to satisfy the Entry Clearance Officer that the marriage was not entered into primarily for immigration apply to wives also. The New rules have also strengthened the provisions relating to maintenance and accommodation.

Negotiations for Purchase of Seaking Helicopters Sea Harrier Aircraft and HMS Hermes from Britain

1187. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been negotiating for the purchase of Seaking helicopters, Sea Harrier aircraft and the naval aircraft carrier HMS Hermes from Britain; and

(b) whether any argeement has been entered into with Britain in this regard if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) and (b) No negotiations are being conducted with the U.K. for the purchase of Seaking helicopters or of HMS Hermes although an offer for the later has been received.

A contract has been signed on the 25th November, 1985 with M/s British Aerospace, U.K. for the supply of 11 Sea Harrier Aircraft together with supporting equipment, spares etc. A contract has also been signed with M/s Rolls Royce, U.K. for some spare engines. The value of the supplies is of the order of about £150 million.

Self-Immolation by an Ex-Serviceman in Delhi

1188. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an ex-serviceman recently set himself on fire in Delhi on account of failure of the authorities concerned to settle his pensionary benefits from the army; and

(b) if so, what is the result of the inquiry, if any, conducted by Government into the matter and the action taken for non-settlement of his claim leading to his self-immolation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) and (b) An Ex-Servicemen, (Gunner) T.N. Balu, is reported to have set himself on fire recently in Delhi. He was demanding pension for his service in the Army. However, as his total qualifying Military service fell short of the minimum service required for earning pension, he was not entitled to it. He was entitled for service gratuity only. The same has been paid to him and this was clarified in the reply to his petition.

Recall of Security Guards from the Hague

1189. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some security guards were recalled to India from the Hague;